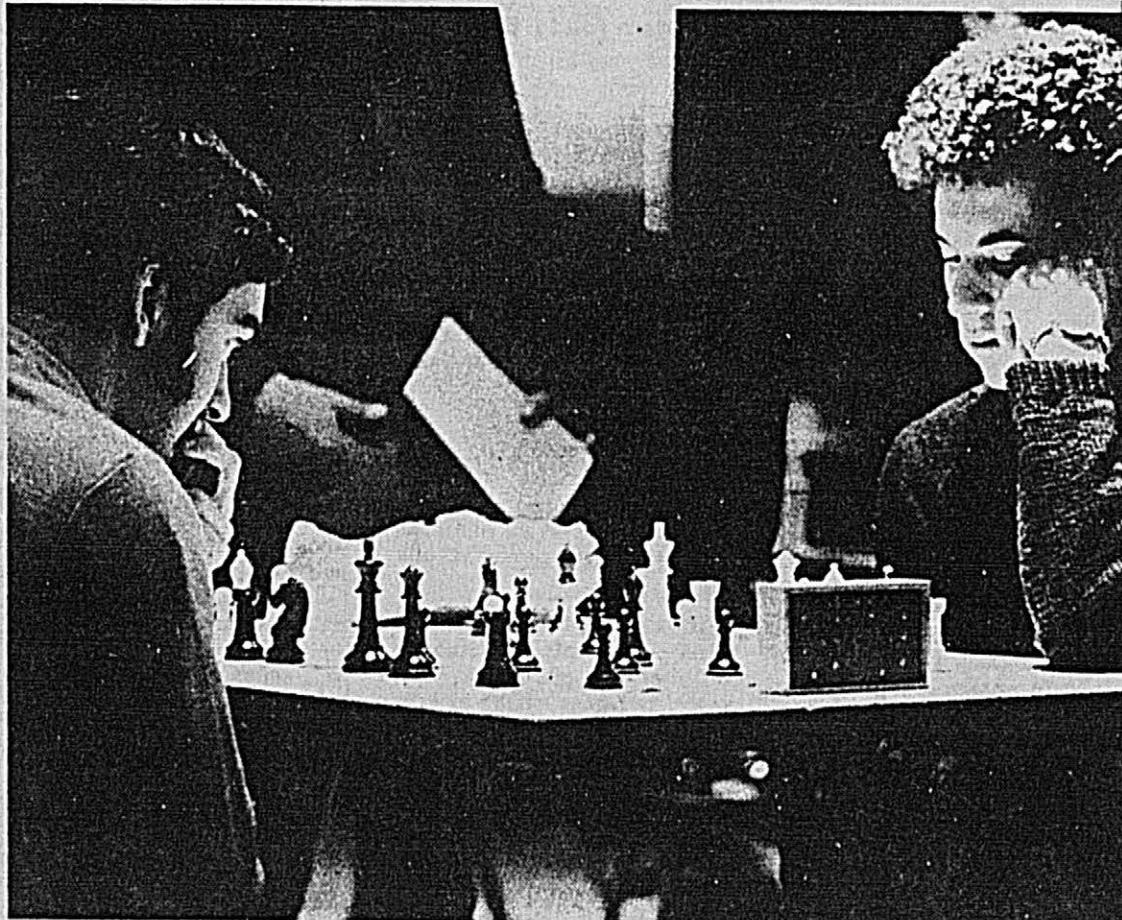


FREE DAILY

DEPOT LEGAL BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE

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daily photo by harold rosenberg

DESPITE THE EXCITEMENT generated by the petition for a free and open Daily, about 30 chess enthusiasts found enough peace and quiet to enjoy their favourite sport, during yesterday's tournament organized by the Montreal Chess League in the Union cafeteria.

Exec and societies to discuss secession

The Students' Council executive will meet tonight with presidents of McGill's faculty associations in a meeting of the Board of Regular Committees.

Correspondence read at last week's Council meeting suggests that at least the Post Graduate Students' Society has secession in mind. But there are indications that the Commerce Undergraduate Society and the Engineering Undergraduate may be considering breaking off relations with the Students' Society. The Music Undergraduate Society may be thinking along the same lines, following a credentials fight in Council two weeks

ago in which a member of the MUS was refused official recognition as Student Councillor for violations of the nominations procedure in the Students' Society electoral by-laws. the MUS presently has no representation on Council.

At last Wednesday's meeting, Students' Society president Gabor Zinner prefaced his introductory statement concerning the choice of the Daily editor with remarks regarding secessionist trends among the faculty societies.

But historically, secessionist overtures by faculty associations have hinged on allocation of funds by the Students' Society to the separate undergraduate bodies. The Law Undergraduate Society approached Council earlier this year about increased grants and subsidization of the McGill Law Journal with the threat of secession if demands were not met. Similar requests for funds were approved by Council under the Julius Grey adminis-

tration. Grants to both the Law Undergraduate Society and the Medical Students Society totalling \$14,000 were made in one night in the 1969-70 academic year.

This allocation, coupled with large grants for the ill-fated student co-op, left the Students' Society almost bankrupt. A loan made to the Post Graduate Students' Society about three years ago has never been fully repaid. PGSS representatives speaking to Council earlier this term said that their group was close to bankruptcy.

There are also other problems plaguing the society. For the past few years, the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society has been talking about decentralizing the Students' Society in order to free students from bureaucratic control. As well, some of the smaller faculties like Nursing, P & OT, have felt isolated from the rest of McGill and neglected by the central Students' Society.

Members and supporters of the Daily staff, presently engaged in a struggle with Council to uphold the principles of staff democracy and an open paper, have launched a massive campus-wide campaign aimed at forcing a Special Council meeting on the issue this coming Friday.

The Independent Students for a Free Daily, (ISFD) a group of over two hundred students working on campus to mobilize opinion against Council's appointment of Timothy Denton as next year's Daily editor, plan to overturn Council's decision at the meeting.

The students are basing their strategy on Article XV of the Students' Society constitution which provides that: A Special Meeting shall be called by the President at the written request of three hundred members of the Students' Society on three days' notice given in the McGill Daily.

The ISFD hopes to collect the necessary three hundred signatures before noon today, and present them to President Gabor Zinner sometime this afternoon, for further action.

Another petition, launched late Thursday afternoon by the ISFD, and calling for "freedom of the press and journalistic integrity, which can only be guaranteed by a free and autonomous Daily," has already collected over 1,700 signatures.

Students from all over campus, and of all political persuasions continue to make their way to the headquarters of the ISFD, the basement offices of the McGill Daily in the Union, to pledge their support and lend a hand in the mobilization campaign.

Daily staffers have been overwhelmed by the degree of enthusiasm shown for their cause by different individuals and organizations across McGill. The main office of the Daily has been

converted into a giant workshop, with every inch of space taken up by students painting posters, drafting pamphlets and press releases, or just sitting around and discussing strategy, and the progress of the petition.

Today the petition campaign continues side by side with the campaign to force an open Council meeting for this coming Friday, and an open revote on the Daily editorship.

By Friday the ISFD is confident that the degree of support for a free and open Daily will be such that Council will be forced to back down from its unprincipled and unpopular decision on the matter.

Included on the list of demands prepared by the ISFD, to be presented at the Special meeting of

by Nigel Gibson

Students to force open meeting

DAILY — OPEN MEETINGS — MONDAY

Daily Staffers and Independent Students for a Free Daily are sponsoring brief meetings at the following places to discuss the principal issues and strategies concerning the Daily issue:

- 12.00 UNION CAFETERIA
- 1.00 LEACOCK RM. 219
- 1.00 OTTO MAASS RM. 328
- 1.00 MCCONNELL ENG. Common Room

Students' Council is: the rescinding of the 14-point Daily contract, prepared by Gabor Zinner, and designed to provide Students' Council with ultimate control over the content of material printed in the paper; the rescinding of the appointment of Timothy Denton as Daily editor; and the ratification of Neser Ahmad, the unanimous choice of the Daily staff, for the position.

FREE DAILY

LETTERS

FOR AND
AGAINST
THE DAILY

The Ideal Daily

Sir,

In the discussion of Council's selection of the '72-73 Daily editor, a central question is what should be the nature of a student newspaper, specifically, what is the ideal Daily?

Though it is obvious that more coverage should be given to certain university events, the interests of most students go beyond free telephones, dances, and 1:00 rock concerts. As human beings we face demands and problems at individual, university, community and political levels. I think everyone can agree that the solutions and analyses of these situations can only be explored in honest dialogue.

Council has acted to restrict solutions to "council-censored" ones. It is with this intent that they have elected for editor someone who they in fact requested to run, whose journalistic experience is minimal, and who has never contributed to the Daily. Whether or not we agree with "council" viewpoints, we should consider what a McGill newspaper could and should be — and then consider how Council has maneuvered to control these possibilities. It does not matter whether we are "rightists" or "leftists". The central issue is whether we are apathetic and willing to let future Dailies become nothing more than mediocre high-school papers, or instead evolve into a form that will offer and stimulate our individual reactions to the contexts within which McGill students live.

Michael Miloff

Good ole Gabby did it!

Sir,

Not being an especially politically-minded student and not being an excitable one either, it had to take quite a lot to get me totally alienated and disgusted with our Students' Council. But Good Ole Gabby did it!

He has gotten me to the point where I spend half an hour of my time trying to explain the intricate details of Wednesday night's fiasco to each student who has the time to listen.

He has gotten me to the point where I neglect my schoolwork trying to get signatures for the petition.

He has gotten me to the point where, for the first time, I give enough of a damn to try to DO SOMETHING about our fucked-up S.C.

Thanks Gabby.

Robert Raich
B. Comm E-2

Don Woticky

The Free Daily is published by the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society of McGill University, 3480 McTavish Street, Montreal 112. Official editorial control is vested in the Editor of the ASUS Free Press. In fact, editorial decisions are taken by the staff of the 1971-72 McGill Daily. The Free Daily operates out of the offices of the McGill Daily in the basement of the University Centre. Our phone number is 392-8955. The Free Daily is typeset and printed by local 41, Union des Pressiers de Journaux (FTQ), at l'Imprimerie Dumont, 9130 Boivin, Ville LaSalle. Opinions expressed in the Free Daily are those of their authors.

Openness and Credibility

Sir,

The problems we are now having concerning the editor of the Daily are caused by a lack of analysis of the situation. It is not whether we have a "Maoist" or a "Fascist" as editor of our newspaper. Rather we must examine the purpose of our paper. Is it the purpose to represent the attitudes of the students, the Student's Council or the Daily staff?

If it were to represent the general attitudes of all the students, then a vote by all students would choose the editor. If the paper represents the Council, the Council should select the editor.

But the Daily is not a vehicle of representation, it is vehicle of communication for the students. It should present facts and state opinions of individuals for the purpose of creating a well informed student body.

This means that those who work on this paper — the informed student body.

This means that those who work on this paper — the ones who make it function — should select the editor. It is by working for the newspaper that one gains the right to be editor. This ensures competency, devotion to the paper, and a realization of why this paper exists and for what purpose it exists.

The Daily should be open to anyone who wishes to write. This is a basic principle that is absolutely necessary for the objectivity of the paper. As more views are given, the paper becomes more objective, and the students become more informed. The principle of an open paper is necessary for the credibility of the paper as a vehicle of communication.

The problem also exists of the reporter's personal opinion coloring the news articles. It is impossible to expect a reporter to be able to keep his attitude out of his articles. As long as the paper is open to all subjective opinions, then, the total effect will be objective.

I base my opinions about a student newspaper on principle, not on individuals or labels. Staff democracy should be upheld. The McGill Daily must be open.

I urge Council to consider the principles and take appropriate action.

I urge next year's Daily staff to have a truly open paper.

R.J. Mison

I dare you to, Baby!

Sir,

It is becoming obvious that Gabor Zinner will do anything to perpetuate the Students' Society and his position as president of the said "institution". The way he manipulated the last Students' Society meeting to secure a secret ballot vote and a vote for himself (when a president only has voting rights in the case of a tie) shows clearly.

The proposed contract will make the Daily nothing more than a propaganda sheet for the Students' Society and with Timothy Denton as its editor the Students' Society surely will not benefit.

Zinner claims that the Students' Society represents the students and thus that Denton is their choice. Is Zinner willing to back up Denton by making this his campaign issue? (I dare you to, baby!)

Although I rarely agree with Nesar Ahmad's views I respect the fact that those people who stayed up till one or two in the morning to put out a paper unanimously voted for him as editor. What right does the Students' Council have to interfere with this decision? Did they help write or organize a single Daily issue? We must not allow the freedom of the press to be stifled by bureaucrats or their power-hungry leader.

Mel Spiegel

Statement from Hillel.

Re: A Free McGill Daily
The executive of the McGill Hillel Students' Society, on behalf of Hillel, wishes to make the following statement:

1) We deplore the manner in which the Council meeting was carried out Wednesday night.

Members of the Student Council are elected to represent students. Students are entitled to know how their councillors vote. We condemn the secret ballot taken at that meeting.

2) We condemn a contract that binds the staff of the Daily to a pro-Council editorial bias.

3) We support the right of the editor and staff of the Daily to decide the editorial policy of the paper.

4) We feel that the only function of the Council in relation to the Daily should be the appointment and dismissal of the editor on grounds of journalistic competence.

Therefore, we demand that

1) Council rescind the above-mentioned contract.

2) Council revoke the choice of Daily editor for next year in an open ballot.

Bob Vineberg,
President,
McGill Hillel Students Society

I want my \$1.22 back.

Sir,

I have been observing the activities of two of our employees, viz. Saydie Hempey and Myron Galloway, and have come to the conclusion that they are both incompetent and lazy.

As there are 12,500 members of the Students' Society, each of whom contributes \$24 (including myself), the total revenue from fees collected annually is \$301,200. The combined salaries of the two individuals aforementioned, coming to approximately \$15,500 per annum, represents a personal annual contribution on the part of each member of the Students' Society of about \$1.22.

I will not annoy you by complaining about the way these employees lounge around the office for the better part of what is normally a working day. I will not embarrass you by describing how the Controller, Mrs. Hempey, takes a positive delight in being as obstructive and as obnoxious as possible to all students who dare to venture into the general vicinity of the offices of what is ostensibly their Society. I will not mortify you by recounting the story of how Myron Galloway, then Secretary-Treasurer of the Students' Society (but since demoted to Secretary) was unable to determine the balance of one of the accounts of a certain major activity, and actually signed a purchase order the effect of which was to overdraw the account by more than thirty dollars. No, I won't disturb you with any of these matters.

But I do want my \$1.22 back.

The reason for this is that I do not believe that I have had sufficient value for my money. (I suspect that you have probably wasted most of the rest as well, but I'll have to let you get away with that.) Please send your remittance to my mailing address. You can obtain this address from any one of the many insurance companies to which you sold it.

Hoping you will attend to this matter within the current accounting period, I remain sincerely yours,

J.P. Roxburgh

The Daily has received a large volume of letters and notes from readers on the Daily crisis. All will eventually be published. Please be patient.

On the Zinner "Contract"

Denton's view

As editor of the Daily (1972-1973) my interest has been and will remain the preservation of the McGill student community. To this end it seemed necessary to change the Daily. Others agreed with that policy, and precisely because the idea of an open Daily was thought so important, that contract passed through council 11 to 4.

That contract was assented to by both candidates. It is important to remember that fact because the tenor of the public debate in the last few days has given rise to the false impression that Mr. Ahmad did not agree to sign it as a condition of getting the job.

You are all publishers of the Daily. Both those who read it and those who don't are charged a lot of money for the privilege of having the Daily. The publisher is the readership. The publisher has a right to see that the paper he controls and pays for reflects his interests. This is what is meant by an "open Daily". The publishers — the students — have the right to see their activities covered and their views represented. This is why I can consistently maintain that I stand for an open Daily.

But those who work day after

day to get the paper out have the undeniable right to impose their own views on the paper. This is known as staff autonomy. An open Daily and staff autonomy are two interests that exist in constant tension, the resolution of which would destroy the paper.

By the end of this year it was becoming clear that the Daily was responsive to none save certain elements of the student union fraternity, which occupies various offices in that costly building of ours and distributes money in its own interests. The interests of this group of people and the interests of the students at large were becoming, and remain, so divergent that a change was felt necessary.

To that end I was appointed editor. To ensure that I meant what I said Council has seen fit to make a contract the intention of which is to force the Daily open once more. Although Mr. Ahmad's stand has been taken under the guise of an open Daily, a stand as unobjectionable as motherhood, he is practically the exponent of the idea that the staff of the Daily shall have total control of the policy of the paper, with opposition to appear in the paper from out-

side the staff that puts it to bed at night.

As editor of next year's Daily I do not consider that contract as a guideline for how the paper is to be produced each day. It will not be posted on the wall as if it were a sheet of instructions.

The proper interpretation of that contract is that if council decides to fire the editor, then that contract will be the grounds of interpretation of Article 6, clause 8 of the Students' Society constitution. That article already says that Council may fire the editor of the Daily at its discretion. That contract binds council to certain and determinate grounds of dismissal.

If the conditions obtaining within the Students' Society were not so exceptional, that contract would never have been drafted. But in view of the completely unrepresentative nature of the Daily and many of the executives of political clubs on campus this year, that contract became the necessary means of providing an open Daily. Insofar as that contract opens the Daily I stand by it.

Timothy Denton

Reply to Mr. Denton

Only part of what Mr. Denton says stands in need of urgent reply. This concerns the insinuation on which his talk of staff autonomy rests. The people who put out the paper do not impose their views on the paper. The people who contribute to the paper, produce it, help in any capacity in its getting out; these people are the paper. The consequence of Mr. Denton's statement is that these people impose their views on themselves. So long as students on this campus work on the paper, so long as their ideas contend within its pages, the Daily is an open paper. But these students, in putting out the paper, must be free from controls by Council. Mr. Denton considers this a contradiction "the resolution of which would destroy the paper". Perhaps if Mr. Denton had learned the ropes as a staffer instead of wanting the editorship without working on the paper, perhaps then Mr. Denton could appreciate that there is something more to staff autonomy than meets the eyes of some councillors, or, what comes to the same thing, than meets the eyes of Mr. Denton himself.

Tom Sorell

This is a fascist contract

When a gangster puts a "contract" out on his enemy, a triggerman is dispatched to eliminate that person. Last week Gabor Zinner put a contract out upon freedom of the press, and Tim Denton was dispatched to oversee its suppression.

With articles 1 to 8 of the contract I have no quarrel. Neither do I oppose motherhood and apple pie. However, I wouldn't force every woman to sign a contract to become a mother before she can make love. Similarly, an editor shouldn't be forced to sign a contract.

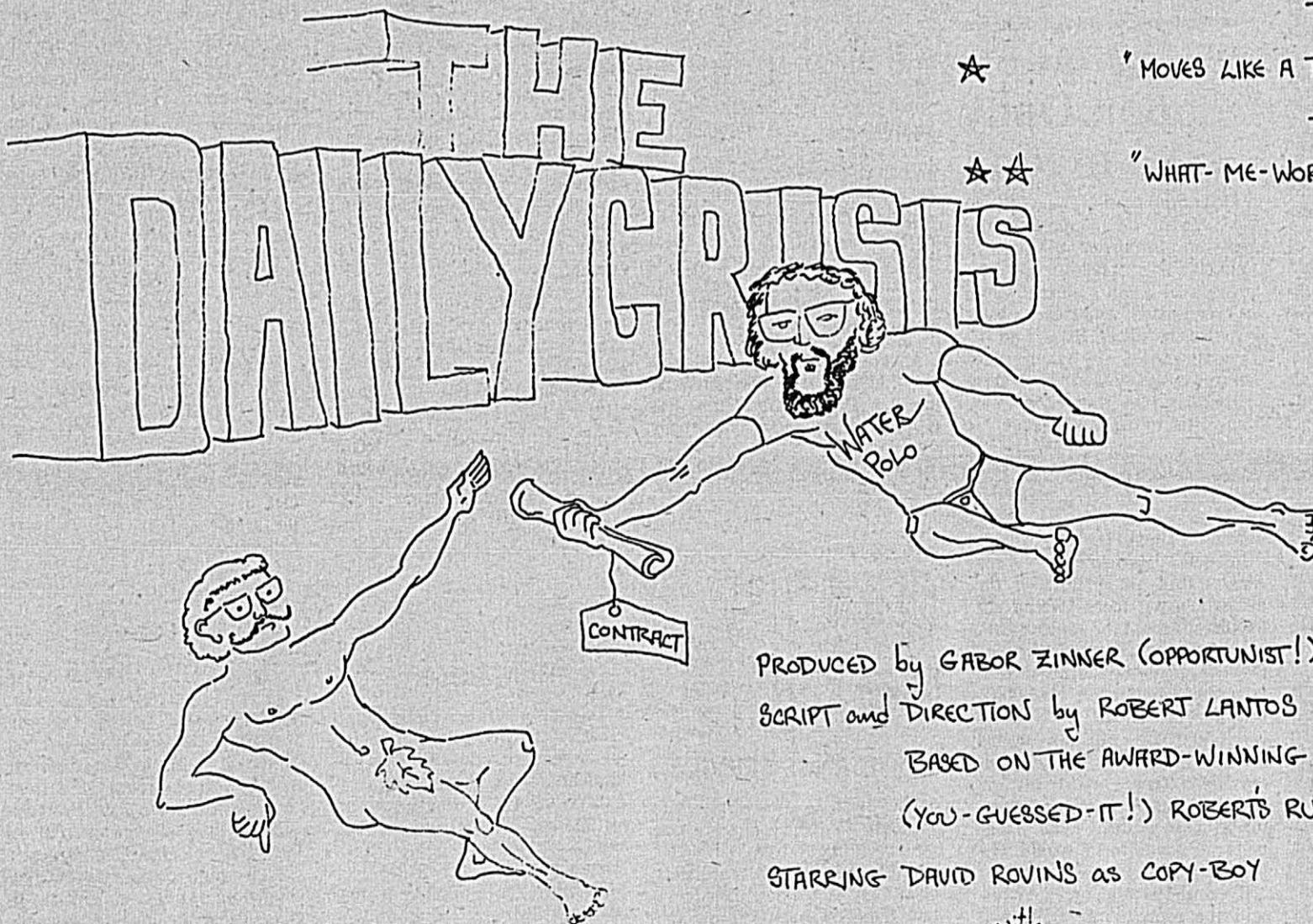
But these articles are not dangerous and can be compared fairly with an oath of office, just a formality. Articles 11 and 12 are dangerous.

Article 11 says "a review date of October be established for the Students' Council to evaluate the overall performance of the Daily up to that time."

Article 12 says "If at that time (or any other time), it is the view of the Students' Council that a serious infraction of any of the terms stipulated in the contract has occurred that shall cons-

Continued on page 4

A STUDENTS' COUNCIL PRODUCTION



PRODUCED by GABOR ZINNER (OPPORTUNIST!)

SCRIPT and DIRECTION by ROBERT LANTOS

BASED ON THE AWARD-WINNING NOVEL

(YOU-GUESSED-IT!) ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

STARRING DAVID ROVINS as COPY-BOY

with

A CAST of THOUSANDS - THE MASS MOVEMENT

EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION - TIM DENTON as JUDAS ISCARIOT

Continued on page 4

NOTES

Ahmad's policy statement

The following is the full text of the statement of editorial policy by the editorial committee of the McGill Daily presented to last Wednesday's Students' Council meeting by Nesar Ahmad, the Daily's candidate for editor. It is being published in response to inquiries by students as to Mr. Ahmad's official position.

Internally, the Daily will follow a democratic style of work. All members of the staff possess the right to express their opinions. Arbitrary ways of making decisions should be discouraged by instituting means whereby justification of views becomes necessary for everyone.

The Daily as a student newspaper should reflect the diversity of views of the general student body. Any kind of views discussing significant issues of the day must be published. Last year columns like *From Our Readers* were set aside for such purposes. We intend to further encourage such contributions from all our readers. This open editorial policy does not necessarily imply the aimless expression of views. The idea is to encourage expression of divergent views within the context of a definite controversy or dialogue. Only through such interplay of ideas can we ensure the continuance of zeal and interest among our readers. Also, an open paper does not necessarily mean an apolitical paper. The aim of generating discussion should be to facilitate resolution of problems facing McGill students.

Special attention will be paid to the style of writing; dull, tedious writing will be generally discouraged. The seriousness of approach should be synthesized with a readable style.

The goal of generating serious discussion should not prevent us

from covering a wide range of campus events, many of which are of a recreational and cultural nature. Columns such as "What's What" should publicize such events regularly. Also, one of the Daily staffers will be made responsible for contacting different campus clubs and associations to ensure regular flow of information.

The problem of late delivery of the Daily is a serious one. During the summer we intend to look for new contracts with some reliable printing and delivery companies. The contract must be a strict one, and delivery should preferably be a sub-contract to the printer.

Also, we are formulating detailed plans for new typesetting arrangements. It seems highly feasible, if the Students' Council so approves, for the Daily to buy its own typesetting system, to be shared with the Handbook. Old McGill, other campus newspapers, and the course guide, if the latter is revived. The cost of capitalization and one year's operation together exceeds the present annual typesetting costs by only a few thousand dollars, and in subsequent years would be only a fraction of the present figure. It will also facilitate quick delivery; we do not have to depend upon others for typesetting. A detailed proposal will be submitted to Council after the Daily staff has considered all aspects of the project.

What an open Daily means

One of the reasons many people have given for supporting the Daily in its current battle with Council is "freedom of the press," as good a liberal cause as ever existed. And that is exactly what is the matter with it. Liberal causes by their very nature lack any sort of precise definition; they mean too many things to too many people. If

we are to retain the support we gained during this struggle, we are going to have to buckle down to cold realities and give clear definitions, with concrete examples, of what we mean by an "open Daily" and "staff democracy."

It must be made perfectly clear that an "open Daily" does not mean the same thing as a "pluralist" Daily. An open Daily would print all opinions submitted to it, but it would print them as opinions and not as some equal part of its editorial policy. This, in fact, is what the Daily consistently did in the past year, despite the prevarications of Messrs. Zinner and Denton. All shades of opinion which were submitted were published, whether as letters, as "notes" or as articles "From Our Readers."

Insofar as the staff itself was concerned, there was no monolithic control by any "clique of Maoists." The regular Daily news staff reflected virtually every shade of opinion on the left, as well as some which were somewhat to the right. But this did not mean that a news article which contradicted the editorial policy of the Daily could simply be published without any attempt to convince the writer of the incorrectness of his or her position.

If a reporter covered an event in a way with which the rest of the staff disagreed, he had to justify his position. There were many cases in the past year where after discussion a reporter was convinced that his interpretation was wrong. But there was never any case of overt and high-handed censorship, or of changing the meaning of an article without consulting the reporter involved. A good many inaccuracies went into a number of stories this year because of the Daily's policy of maintaining this principle.

Anyone who is acquainted with the "dossier noir" compiled by the La Presse journalists last October must know how many

times deliberate distortion and censorship of articles were committed by the "news managers" at La Presse. And anyone who knows reporters who work for other commercial newspapers and media can tell of many other cases. The difference between what went on on this year's Daily and what went on on commercial newspapers and on some of the Dailys of other years is the difference between real staff democracy and elitist autocracy.

There were a number of cases of blatant censorship on the 1970-71 Treiger Daily. The suppression of an analysis by Nesar Ahmad of the consequences of Nasar's death was one glaring example. If the 1971-72 Daily was run by such a "Maoist clique" how is it that a two-part interview with Sam Walsh, a supporter of "Soviet revisionism" was published? How is it that a number of articles and cartoons which were not exactly complimentary to the PCQ (M-L) were printed? They certainly met with strong and sometimes bitter opposition from Marxist-Leninists on the Daily. The Marxist-Leninists certainly spent a good deal of time arguing with the people who were responsible. But they did not attempt to arbitrarily suppress other opinions.

The contradictions which exist between the "Maoists" and the rest of the Daily staff are "contradictions among the people," not "contradictions between the people and the enemy." They can and in many cases have been resolved by rational discussion. The members of the Daily staff who are not Marxist-Leninists may disagree with them and may attack them for various specific reasons. But they will not engage in the type of vicious red-baiting that Zinner, Denton, Little and their cohorts seem to enjoy so much.

The Daily's editorial policy is determined by its staff. It is not the business of the Students' Council or of anyone else to dictate what goes into the paper. If a student objects to something the Daily is doing he or she is

perfectly free to join the Daily staff and to try to change the policies of the paper from within. It is more than likely that, once that person's misconceptions have been cleared away by actual experience, he or she will have changed rather than the Daily's general policies.

(This is not to say, of course, that the people at the Daily have a monopoly on truth or that drastic changes on particular aspects of policy are unlikely. Many such drastic changes have taken place in the past year, due to the constant ideological ferment among the staff.)

Where debate is open, where bullshitting is a cardinal sin and where every position must be justified, change is inevitable. It is the existence of a lackadaisical, laissez-faire, pluralist editorial "policy" in which the right to an "individual opinion" becomes a sacred cow that breeds stagnation.

Arnold Bennett

TODAY

METIS STUDENT MOVEMENT:
Meeting Leacock 236, 6 pm.
ISA: Council and election meeting, 5 pm, rm 307. Reception, 6 pm, rm. 307.

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Jack Amar, pianist (classical), 1-2 pm, Union ballroom.

Contract...

Continued from page 3

tute sufficient grounds for the immediate dismissal of the editor who is according to the Students' Council constitution directly responsible to the Council."

These articles give Council the ability to fire the editor on grounds other than journalistic or financial incompetence. If the contract remains in effect, Council will have censorship power over the Daily. Any attack upon a Councillor or an executive for incompetence or corruption would be interpreted as a character slur, forbidden by Article 5, and would result in the immediate removal of the editor. If the contract had been in effect last year, we would never have heard about the shenanigans of Tanny, Pomerantz and Rovins.

Is that the kind of Daily we want?

Imagine Parliament having control over the editors of the nation's newspapers. Would we have heard about the government's attempt to muzzle the Auditor-General or about the wastage of taxpayers' money on the Bonaventure or about the abuses committed by officials during the War Measures Act or about the Herb Grey report on the American takeover of the economy or about so many other things that the government would like to hush up?

If Council is not forced to rescind the contract the Daily will degenerate into a house organ singing the praises of political hacks, with Timothy MacDougall Denton as their "Charlie McCarthy."

Steve D. Cohen

What's what

GUIDANCE SERVICE

They need to know what's bugging you, so they can serve you better. If you have problems finding a job, choosing a graduate school or personal problems, state them in specific terms and address the letter to the McGill Guidance Service, 522 Pine. Please include your age, faculty, year and sex. If you want to save postage drop the letter off at any porter's office.

HANDBOOK

To all clubs, societies and creative individuals on Campus: an urgent request. The McGill Student Handbook needs information on next year's programs of all clubs and societies. The Handbook will not be solely an information book. It will attempt to capture the complete feeling of the divergent environment on Campus. Your creative effort on this project is required. Submissions may come in the form of descriptive writing, photographs, graphics and poetry. Your support is needed.

FANIA DAVIS

Fania Davis will be at the Université de Montréal Tuesday, March 21 at 8 pm in the Grand Amphitheatre to speak at a rally in defense of her sister, Angela. Angela Davis is now on trial in California on trumped-up murder charges in connection with a courtroom killing in which a gun allegedly belonging to her was used. She is actually being tried because of her race and her political beliefs. The Tuesday rally is being sponsored by the Quebec Committee for the Defense of Angela Davis.